

resources that we can prevent detrimental impacts to America's natural resources and cave ecosystems.

The goals of the National Cave and Karst Research Institute, as outlined in the report, would be to further the science of speleology, to centralize speleological information, to further interdisciplinary cooperation in cave and karst research programs, and to promote environmentally sound, sustainable resource management practices. These goals would work hand in hand with the proposed objectives of the Institute to establish a comprehensive cave and karst library and information data base, to sponsor national and international cave and karst symposiums, to develop long term research studies, to produce cave-related educational publications and to develop cooperative agreements with all Federal agencies having cave management responsibilities.

The vicinity of Carlsbad Caverns National Park is ideal due to the community support which already exists for the establishment of the institute and the diverse cave and karst resources which are found throughout the region.

Carlsbad, NM, has grown from a small railroad stop on what is now the Santa Fe Railroad to a growing city with a population of over 170,000 in the tri-county area. It continues to attract new businesses, small manufacturers, retirees and research facilities, including the U.S. Department of Energy's Carlsbad area office. In addition, Carlsbad Caverns National Park attracts over 700,000 visitors per year.

The National Cave and Karst Research Institute would be jointly administered by the National Park Service and another public or private agency, organization, or institution as determined by the Secretary. The Carlsbad Department of Development [CDOD], after reviewing the National Cave and Karst Research Institute study report, has developed proposals to obtain financial support from available and supportive organizational resources, including personnel, facilities, equipment and volunteers. They further believe that they can obtain serious financial support from the private sector and would seek a matching grant from the State of New Mexico equal to the available Federal funds.

Carlsbad already has in place many of the needed cooperative institutions, facilities and volunteers that will work toward the success of the National Cave and Karst Institute. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation to increase our understanding of cave and karst systems. ●

ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

● Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I rise to call my colleagues' attention to the solemn anniversary of the Armenian genocide. In 1915, the Ottoman Turkish Government launched an extermination campaign against all Armenians

on its territory. The result of that gruesome policy was the death of about 1.5 million people, the destruction of a once flourishing community, and the scattering of the survivors around the globe.

Many Armenians came to America, where they have rebuilt their communities, prospered and become a vital part of the American body politic. They have nurtured our democracy, while maintaining their traditions and always remembering the circumstances that forced them from their homeland. Meanwhile, their brothers and sisters in Armenia endured communism and Joseph Stalin, but despite the different fates of these two communities, they remained stubbornly and proudly Armenian, even when contact between them was difficult.

In 1991, Armenia became an independent country and has worked hard to consolidate its independence since then. Today Armenia is a respected member of the international community, its progress toward democratization and economic well-being promoted by the worldwide Armenian Diaspora and by supportive governments, especially the United States.

Independence confers freedom, but not necessarily freedom from hardship. Apart from the devastating December 1988 earthquake, Armenia has also endured the consequences of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the adversities caused by blockades imposed by neighboring Azerbaijan and Turkey. Happily, the Nagorno-Karabakh cease-fire has held since May 1994, offering grounds to hope that the conflict will be peacefully resolved in the foreseeable future. All the parties to this dispute must pursue its peaceful resolution through the OSCE process, and with active American involvement, bring about a lasting, stable peace.

In the spirit of reconciliation and looking ahead to Armenia's future, President Ter-Petrosyan said in Washington last year that "Armenia has no enemies." All of us who are friends of Armenia are working for precisely that future, for an Armenia without enemies, while remembering the victims of the Armenian Genocide.

Mr. President, in light of the fact that, for the first time since World War II, there are international tribunals investigating two current genocides, one in Bosnia and one in Rwanda, it is very important that all of us remember the first genocide of the 20th century, and dedicate ourselves to the proposition that there will be no new genocides in the future. ●

81ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, 81 years ago today one of the most horrific events of our century began. On this day in 1915, hundreds of Armenian political and religious leaders were arrested, taken to the Turkish interior, and executed. This began a terrible

chapter of history—the Armenian genocide.

In the 8 years that followed, over a million Armenians were killed at the hands of the Ottoman authorities. Men, women, and children were brutally taken from their homes to be abused and killed in mass slayings. Others were rounded-up and marched for weeks through the Syrian desert where many more perished. Symbols of culture—churches, libraries, and towns—were razed.

On this, the 81st anniversary of the Armenian genocide, we must remember and we must speak out.

Many call this tragedy "the forgotten genocide". In our world of terror and continued upheaval it is essential that we never forget. We must remember our history and the lesson of the Armenian genocide. As Americans blessed with security and freedom, we must never let oppression and persecution pass without loud condemnation. By remembering the Armenian genocide, we renew our ongoing commitment to fight for human dignity and freedom throughout the world.

We must also honor the Armenians throughout the world who left their homes in tragedy. They have maintained their proud culture and traditions throughout the world. Their strength and perseverance is a triumph of the human spirit. We should specifically recognize those Armenians who fled from their homes and into our communities. Today we thank them for their invaluable contributions to our society.

Even today, the Armenian people are living under a unfair and unjust blockade preventing needed humanitarian aid. Last year, the Congress enacted the Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act that would prohibit U.S. aid to countries that prevent our humanitarian aid from reaching places in need. I was proud to support this act and see it signed into law.

Despite a long history of pain, persecution, and tragedy, the Armenian people have shown remarkable strength, pride, and resilience. We as Americans are proud of their contributions to our society. We will always remember their tragedy and we salute their achievements. ●

HONORING THE VOLUNTEERS OF HOSPICE CARE, INC.

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize the volunteers of Hospice Care, Inc. in southwestern Fairfield County, CT. For 15 years Hospice Care has provided care and comfort to people with terminal illnesses. But beyond providing palliative care, Hospice is a program for individuals who are dealing with the emotional and spiritual changes that follow the diagnosis of a life-ending illness.

Hospice could not offer its many meaningful services without its volunteers; they are an integral part of Hospice. Together with professional staff,